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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**VINCENNES WOMEN SENTENCED FOR STEALING
EMPLOYER'S FUNDS IN BANK FRAUD SCHEME**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that DEBORAH L. RICHARDS, 45, of Vincennes, Indiana, was sentenced to 21 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Richard L. Young following her guilty plea to bank fraud. This case was the result of a investigation by the U.S. Secret Service.

Between March 15 and September 15, 2004, RICHARDS was employed by the Southwest Indiana Network for Education, a non-profit organization. During this time period, RICHARDS was employed as a bookkeeper for the non-profit organization and took approximately \$88,057 in funds from the Fifth Third Bank account of the Southwest Indiana Network for Education without the consent of the organization. RICHARDS used her

knowledge of the organization's financial affairs to obtain official bank checks using funds from the organization's Fifth Third Bank account.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Todd S. Shellenbarger, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Young also imposed 3 years supervised release following RICHARDS's release from imprisonment. RICHARDS was ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$88,057.

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